

Fiscal Services Division

Legislative Services Agency

Fiscal Note

HF 2709 - School Year (LSB 5131 HV)

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Fiscal Note Version - New

Description

House File 2709 replaces the 180-day calendar with one requiring 990 hours of instruction for grades one through six and 1,080 hours of instruction for grades seven through twelve. The Bill requires the State Board to define instructional time excluding passing time, recess, lunch period, assembly time, parent-teacher conferences, late arrival or exceptional dismissal times, and professional development time. Graduating seniors are not required to attend school days added due to inclement weather and those affected by graduation activities. A school district is required to hold a public hearing on a request to change the school start date prior to submitting the request to the Department of Education.

Background

The current 180-day calendar is based on a minimum of 5.5 hours per day, which corresponds to 990 hours. The Department of Education reports that the current average instructional time, without professional development, is 1,023 hours for the elementary level, 1,113 hours for the middle school level, and 1,143 hours for the high school level.

Assumptions

1. Elementary schools operating on a current 7-hour school day (ex. 8:20 am to 3:20 pm, net of 1 hour for lunch and recesses) will be able to meet the 990 minimum hour requirement, and have time for parent-teacher conferences (12 hours), assemblies (4 hours), professional development (24 hours) and still have up to 50 hours for late starts and early dismissals.
2. Secondary schools operating on a current 7-hour school day (ex. 8:20 am to 3:20 pm, net of 1 hour for lunch and passing time) will have 1,080 hours available which is the minimum requirement. Additional time would need to be added for parent-teacher conferences (12 hours), assemblies (4 hours), professional development (24 hours) with no allowance for inclement weather.
3. School districts with contracts exceeding the proposed minimum hours have more flexibility in dealing with the requirements of this Bill without incurring costs.
4. School districts have a variety of options for dealing with the minimum hour requirements, such as extending the school day, adding contract days, eliminating assemblies, reducing late starts by commencing classes before students arrive, and other actions.

Fiscal Impact

Due to various options available to school districts, it is not possible to estimate the fiscal impact of House File 2709.

Source

Department of Education

Dennis C Prouty

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
